AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0105] beginning on page 33 of the specification with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0105]

Also, only one correspondence of the motion vector and the reference picture designation information was set, but a plurality of correspondences may be set. In this case, information that selects the correspondence to be applied should be encoded or decoded. For example, as in the B-frame of MPEG-2, a forward prediction mode and backward prediction mode are defined for the macroblock, and the correspondence in the case of the forward prediction mode and the correspondence in the case of the backward prediction mode are set. In the forward prediction mode, the first motion vector is associated with reference picture designation information 1, and the second motion vector is associated with reference picture designation information 2. Then, in the ~~forward~~ backward prediction mode, the second motion vector is associated with the reference picture designation information 1, and the first motion vector is associated with the reference picture designation information 2. In this case, encoded mode information that designates the forward prediction mode or the backward prediction mode for each macroblock is encoded or decoded.